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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC. 1616 P STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-5390

TONNAGE INDEX INCREASES IN MARCH

General freight carrier tonnage increased 3 points in March, 1984 from February, 1984 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 142.7(p) with 1967=100, the March tonnage is 2.2 percent above February's 139.7(r). The current month's volume is a significant 15.2 points (11.9 percent) above the tonnage level in March, 1983.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey increased from 6.98 million tons in February to 7.72 million tons in March, 1984. Actual tons increased 10.7%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days increased the March index level to 142.7(p).

From February to March, 1984, Industrial Production increased 0.4% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index increase of 2.2%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for the first three months of 1984 increased 13.3 percent compared to the same period of 1983.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH MARCH 1984

1967 = 100

	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Mar. 1983	Monthly % Change 2/84 / 1/84	Monthly % Change 3/84 / 2/84	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	142.7p	139.7r	144.4f	127.5f	-3.3	+2.2	+11.9
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	154.8p	139.9r	133.3f	142.2f	+5.0	+10.7	+ 8.9
Industrial Production Index[2] (total)	160.7	160.0	158.0	140.0	+1.3	+0.4	+14.8
Manufacturers (total)	162.1	161.4	159.3	140.4	+1.3	+0.4	+15.5
Non-durable	177.3	177.0	175.3	160.7	+1.0	+0.2	+10.3
Durable	151.5	150.7	148.2	126.3	+1.7	+0.5	+20.0
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	423.5	433.1	435.5	384.2	-0.5	-2.2	+10.2
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	291.7	290.6	289.4	283.4	+0.4	+0.4	+ 2.9
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	307.3	306.6	305.2	293.4	+0.5	+0.2	+ 4.7
Tonnage Reported by 190 Carriers in March 1984 (000 tons)	7,722	6,975	n.a.	7,129	n.a.	+10.7	+ 8.3

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
January	192.5	164.1	153.3	129.9	127.4	144.4
February	199.1	157.6	152.9	133.1	126.3	139.7r
March	203.2	157.9	152.8	130.0	127.5	142.7p
April	144.2	150.2	152.5	131.2	130.5	
May	189.1	142.5	152.9	131.0	133.6	
June	186.5	139.7	151.2	130.9	135.7	
July	184.1	133.8	150.3	128.6	151.0	
August	176.0	141.5	147.2	131.0	138.5	
September	174.2	145.5	143.3	128.6	139.6	
October	172.6	148.0	140.3	125.4	139.0	
November	172.5	151.6	137.2	122.8	139.5	
December	168.9	153.9	129.9	124.4	141.4	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1982	131.1	131.0	131.4	130.7	131.0	130.2	130.2	129.4	128.3	125.6	124.2	124.9
1983	126.0	127.1	128.1	130.5	133.3	140.1	141.7	143.0	139.0	139.4	140.0	141.8
1984	141.8r	142.3p										

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.